Theft of uranium rock ore powder from the UCIL Laboratory

*358. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 40 packets of urnanium rock ore powder were recently stolen from the laboratory of the Uranium Corporation of India at Jaduguda;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to a chance discovery, some packets of the uranium rock ore powder were recovered by the police in a village; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to see that the theft of such vital and sensitive items does not take place from the laboratories of the Uranium Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The entire Mine and Mill Complex at Jaduguda is under the security of the Central Industrial Security Force. The packets stolen were ordinary rock ore sample powder and not vital and sensitive items like uranium concentrate (yellow cake). The area where uranium concentrate is produced is fenced and guarded round the clock. However, action is being taken to further strengthen the security at Jaduguda.

T.V. serial Discovery of India

*359. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has decided to produce a serial titled Discovery of India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has decided to give this project to a person without inviting proposals from a number of reputed producers thus violating their own norms;

(d) if so, the name of the person who has been entrusted with the making of this serial and what amount is being given to him; and

(e) whether Government propose to invite proposals from other producers on this subject and if not, the reasons for giving preferential treatment to one person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) To coincide with the birth centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Doordarshan had approved the proposal of Sri Shyam Benegal to produce a 52 part programme based upon the Discovery of India. The concept approval for the programme was given in 1985 much before the revised guidelines for sponsored programmes were issued in July, 1986. These guidelines generally relate to the sponsored programmes. Also, Doordarshan reserves the right to invite eminent producers/directors with established credentials to produce its more prestigious programmes. The financial details of the proposal are still being worked out.

Integrated approach to all poverty alleviation programmes

*360. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Govern-

ment to set up a coordination cell to ensure a common integrated approach to all poverty alleviation programmes in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) In order to facilitate interchange of ideas and monitoring of expenditure being incurred on various anti-poverty programmes in different spheres, Ministry of Finance has decided to set up an Internal Coordination Group of concerned officers. However, no funds as such have been allocated for this Group, which will meet as and when required.

Development of sericulture in Andhra Pradesh

2952. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the development of sericulture in Andhra Pradesh with World Bank assistance is pending with the Agricultural Finance Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the project and the reasons for the delay and by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) has reported that a report for sericulture development in Andhra Pradesh has been prepared by them and submitted to that Government. The total outlay of the project has been estimated at Rs. 19.00 crores. AFC has further reported that there has been no delay in submission of the report from their side.

Raids on premises of silk exporters

2953. SHRI VEERSHETTY MOGLAPPA KUSHNOOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence has raided premises of Silk Exporters in Bombay, Bangalore and Calcutta to unearth the misuse of exempted duty free raw silk in violation of the relevant Customs Notification No. 44|87-Customs dated 19th February, 1987 and No. 117|Customs (G.S.R. 318) (E) 9th June, 1978 and Customs Notification dated 5th April, 1982 and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had conducted raids on certain Silk Exporters in Bangalore and Calcutta. The details are given below:—

1. The premises of one M|s Sheila Textiles, Bangalore were searched on 22-7-86 in connection with import of silk under Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate Scheme claiming benefit of Notification No. 117|78-Cus. The search of the premises resulted in the recovery of documents showing import of 2577 Kgs. of Mulbery silk yarn with an obligation to export the silk fabrics manufactured from it. Investigations revealed that silk fabrics manufactured only from a quantity of 1465 Kgs. of silk yarn had been exported and that the party had not fulfilled their export obligations on the reaining quantity of 1112 Kgs. of silk yarn. Non-fulfilment of this export obligation showed duty evasion to the extent of Rs. 2.08 lakhs.

2. On 24-11-85 raids were conducted on the Office and godown premises of M/s Zenith Exporters (Pvt.) Ltd. Calcutta and M,s S. K. Sen and Sons (Pvt.) Ltd. Calcutta and also on the the residential premises of concerned persons. The raids resulted in the seizure of 88 bales of Tussah silk yarn valued at Rs. 30 lakhs